

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INNO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 094113

R 121248Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

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AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 217235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
SEPTEMBER 11, 1975:

Q. WHEN WILL PRIME MINISTER RABIN BE COMING TO WASHINGTON?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN HE WILL BE COMING TO WASHINGTON.

Q. AND SADAT?

A. SOMETIME IN THE FALL, AS THE PRESIDENT --

Q. BOTH OF THEM?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT PRIME MINISTER RABIN, AS I JUST
SAID. BUT WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT SADAT, I THINK IT
WAS IN THE PHONE CALL THAT PRESIDENT FORD MADE TO
PRESIDENT SADAT ON THE DAY OF THE INITIALLING, THAT HE AND
MRS. FORD LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING PRESIDENT AND
MRS. SADAT SOMETIME IN THE FALL, BUT THERE WAS NO DATE SET
AS YET.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIAN ADVANCE
TEAM IS ARRIVING HERE NEXT WEEK?

A. NO, I AM NOT. I AM NOT AWARE OF THAT. BUT I AM
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SURE THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES, AS IS CUSTOMARY YOU KNOW,
THE WHITE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S OFFICE WILL
JOINTLY ANNOUNCE IT. BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN SET.

Q. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, A DATE HAS BEEN SET.

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN SOME DISCUSSION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION
OHAT CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE A COMPROMISE THAT
WOULD INVOLVE THE SALE OF 14 HAWK MISSILE BATTERIES
TO JORDAN?

A. ON THE QUESTION OF THE HAWK MISSILES, ALL I CAN TELL YOU AT THIS STAGE IS THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH, IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH, WITH THE INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT, IN THE HOPE THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYBODY.

AND THAT IS WHERE IT STANDS AS OF RIGHT NOW.

Q. WELL ISN'T IT A FACT THAT A NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE HILL WAS CALLED OFF THIS MORNING AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BECAUSE A MESSAGE CAME BACK FROM KING HUSSEIN LATE YESTERDAY, THAT CARRIED THIS DISCUSSION A FEW STAGES FURTHER?

A. I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS A PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS CALLED OFF AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I CHECKED WITH BOB MCCLOSKEY JUST BEFORE HE WENT UP ON THE HILL THIS MORNING, WITH MR. SISCO ON THIS SUBJECT, AND BOB TOLD ME HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT 2-I THINK IT WAS SENATOR CASE AND CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM -- WERE NOT GOING TO HAVE THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE --

Q. AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT --

A. THAT IS WHAT I DON'T KNOW.

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Q.--AS A RESULT OF A TELEPHONE CALL THEY HAD RECEIVED LAST NIGHT.

A. IN M Y CONVERSATION WITH BOB HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT.

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. WE WERE IN TOUCH THIS MORNING WITH THE HILL. AND WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT S A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

Q. WELL, WOULD IT BE CORRECT TO SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN A REPLY FROM JORDAN, WITH RESPECT TO SOME OF THE DEMANDS FROM THE CONGRESS WHICH SEEM TO REQUIRE THAT THE BATTERIES BE RENDERED IMMOBILE, IN SOME FORM OR OTHER.

A. FRANKLY, AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE, I CANNOT, AND I JUST DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT OUR CONVERSATIONS ARE WITH THE HILL AND WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE TRYING TO DO OUR BEST TO GET THIS THING RESOLVED WHERE EVERYBODY WILL BE SATISFIED; AND IT IS A VERY DELICATE MOMENT AT THIS TIME.

Q. PEOPLE ON THE HILL SAID THAT THEY WERE TOLD AN ANSWER HAD COME FROM JORDAN.

IS THAT INCORRECT?

A. I AM NOT SAYING IT IS INCORRECT.

Q. DOES THAT "ANYTHING FROM THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT" LEAVE OPEN A POSSIBILITY FOR A CONTINUATION OF THESE DISCUSSIONS?

A. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY BEFORE -- HOPEFULLY, WELL BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE LETTER OF OFFER THAT IS NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS. I BELIEVE THE EXPIRATION DATE IS MIDNIGHT, SEPTEMBER 22.

WE RESUBMITTED, FOR THE THIRD TIME, THE ORIGINAL LETTER UNCLASSIFIED

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OF OFFER WHICH WAS ON SEPTEMBER 3.

Q. I THINK I REALIZE HOW SENSITIVE THIS IS BUT HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE SINCE THE SECRETARY, TWO DAYS AGO, SAID THAT KING HUSSEIN WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN 14 BATTERIES?

A. BARRY, JUST LET ME SAY THAT THE ORIGINAL LETTER OF OFFER IS STILL THERE, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WORKING WITH; AND AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA IS TRYING TO BE WORKED OUT THAT WILL SATISFY EVERYONE. I JUST CANNOT GET INTO THE DETAILS.

Q. HE SUGGESTED, IN A PUBLIC NEWS CONFERENCE, THAT THERE COULD BE SOME CHANGES MADE FROM OUR END, FOR INSTANCE, DEPLOYMENT AND DELIVERY, WERE I THINK THE EXAMPLES THAT HE GAVE.

WITH THE CONTEXT OF THE JORDANIANS, HAS THERE BEEN ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT THE JORDANIANS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE SOME COMPROMISE IN THEIR LONGSTANDING POSITION?

A. I CANNOT COMMENT ON THE SPECIFICS OF THIS, BARRY. BUT JUST LET ME SAY THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT ON BOTH SIDES, AS FAR AS CONGRESS IS CONCERNED, AND AS FAR AS THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THAT A WORKABLE FORMULA WILL BE ABLE TO BE OBTAINED.

Q. GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL --

A. YES, SIR.

Q. THE ORIGINAL QUESTION THAT BARRY ASKED: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SINCE IT WAS ADDRESSED BY THE SECRETARY IN THE PUBLIC PRESS CONFERENCE -- ANY CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF EITHER PARTY?

A. I THINK THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS SOLVING THIS PROBLEM, YES. AND SO OBVIOUSLY, ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE -- BUT I JUST CANNOT GET INTO THIS, THE SPECIFICS OF THIS.
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Q. HAVE THEY CHANGED, THEN, SINCE?

A. YES. IT IS STILL EVOLVING, AND MOVING, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR DINITZ GIVE SECRETARY KISSINGER A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER RABIN, DURING THEIR MEETING ON TUESDAY ON ISRAEL'S POSITION REGARDING THE SALE OF HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. AL-AHRAM SAID THIS MORNING THAT EGYPT WOULD ASK FOR A CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. IS THAT NEWS TO YOU?

A. THAT IS NEWS TO ME, YES. I DO NOT KNOW, OR HAVE ANYTHING TO CONFIRM THAT OR DENY IT. IT IS NEWS TO ME.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ANTICIPATED DATE FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY ANTICIPATED DATE FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

Q. DOES SECRETARY KISSINGER PLAN TO DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO A DATE FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I CANNOT BE THAT SPECIFIC WITH YOU. OBVIOUSLY HE WILL GO INTO, AS HE HAD INDICATED, THE QUESTION OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WHETHER THE SPECIFIC SUBJECT OF THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL COME UP, I CANNOT PREDICT.

Q. ONE OTHER QUESTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST. WILL KISSINGER BE MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PERES NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON?

A. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES WILL BE COMING IN THE NEAR

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FUTURE FOR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. HIS SCHEDULE IS CURRENTLY BEING WORKED OUT. I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT THAT WHILE THE DEFENSE MINISTER IS HERE THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY OF THE DETAILS AS YET. THIS IS STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

Q. THAT IS AN OFFICIAL VISIT, IS THAT CORRECT? THE PERES TRIP NEXT WEEK, THAT IS AN OFFICIAL VISIT? IT IS NOT A PRIVATE ONE?

A. I ASSUME IT IS AN OFFICIAL VISIT, YES.

Q. ONE MORE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. THIS MORNING ON THE HILL BEFORE THE PIKE COMMITTEE, TESTIMONY WAS PRODUCED WHICH SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES DID IN FACT KNOW OF THE IMPENDING OCTOBER WAR THE NIGHT BEFORE, BUT DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE UP THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THEREFORE THE WARNING WAS DELAYED BY SEVERAL CRUCIAL HOURS. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT, OR ANY INFORMATION ON IT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY REACTION. I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION. I SAW THE TICKER JUST AS I WALKED IN. BUT I WILL TRY AND LOOK INTO IT.

Q. THE SECRETARY HAS MADE A STRONG POINT OF URGING CONGRESS FOR QUICK APPROVAL OF THE STATIONING OF AMERICANS IN THE SINAI. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, A JOINT RESOLUTION HAS NOT GONE UP FORMALLY YET. WHAT IS HOLDING UP ACTUAL ACTION ON THE HILL ON THIS QUESTION?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO IT. THE SECRETARY AND JOE SISCO HAVE BEEN UP ON THE HILL CONSTANTLY SINCE WE RETURNED. THE WHITE HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE HILL, BUT AS TO JUST WHERE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS STANDS RIGHT NOW, I JUST DO NOT KNOW. LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING.

Q. BUT IS A JOINT RESOLUTION DEFINITELY THE VEHICLE THAT WILL BE USED?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THAT WILL DEFINITELY BE THE VEHICLE THAT WILL BE USED.

Q. BECAUSE THAT IN ITSELF WAS A CHANGE, YOU KNOW.

A. YES. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT DECISION THOSE CONCERNED IN CONGRESS MAY HAVE MADE, BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THAT IS A DECISION FOR THE CONGRESS TO MAKE ON HOW THEY WISH TO -- WHAT SORT OF A DOCUMENT THEY WISH TO APPROVE. IT IS NOT UP TO U TO TELL THEM. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.

KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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